



# COMMUNIQUE

## LOBBY DAY 2019

## UNION COUNTS ON STRONG LEGISLATIVE RELATIONSHIPS FOR POSITIVE OUTCOMES

More than 100 Local 1180 members, staff, and officers traveled to Albany on Tuesday, March 12 for CWA District 1's annual Lobby Day. It was a sea of red in the Capitol and the Legislative Office Building as members met with Senators, Assembly members, and their staffs to discuss issues of importance to CWA.

The District 1 Legislative Agenda for 2019 includes Safe Staffing, NYS Call Center Jobs Act, Making Traffic Enforcement Agents Peace Officers, Ban on Salary History, Protect the Personal Privacy of Public Sector Workers, Funding for the new CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies, Fair Elections, and Safe Staffing for Quality Care Act.

"Throughout New York, CWA members have been speaking out for the vital need for safe staffing ratios for healthcare workers in our hospitals and nursing homes, we have been fighting to save call center jobs that are being outsourced, and we have been pressuring our legislative leaders to adequately fund the School of Labor and Urban studies so our members have the capability of furthering their education," said Local 1180 President Gloria Middleton.

"But most of all, we are doing everything we can to support the Salary History ban bill that would help close the gender wage gap by banning the question of an applicant's salary history during the interview process," she said. "Pay and gender equality are at the forefront of Local 1180 initiatives, so we have gone above and beyond to make sure that Senators and Assembly members who we supported in elections know that they must vote to pass this bill."

While many factors contribute to the gender pay gap, including occupational segregation, patterns of work, and even discrimination, the disparity in earnings between women and men from the 2015 Census Bureau says it all. U.S. women working full time were paid just 80 percent of U.S. men's median earnings — a 20 percent gap. "While these numbers have come as a shock to some, they are not news to Local 1180. This discrimination is exactly what our EEO case is all about," Middleton said.

Another bill at the top of Local 1180's political agenda is one that would prohibit disclosure of public sector workers' home addresses, personal telephone numbers, cell phone numbers, and email addresses. Middleton said that both Second Vice President Gerald Brown and Legislative Coordinator John O'Malley have been working with the union's lobbyist to make sure this budget item is dealt with in 2019.

"Ever since the *Janus* case, public sector workers' personal information is being used to attack, harass, and intimidate workers into withdrawing from their unions by those groups seeking to undermine labor's voice," Brown said. "This is a matter of worker safety and privacy. New York State cannot, and will not, subject public sector workers to being endangered for any reason. That's why this legislation is so important."

Brown said that the dozens of legislators that 1180 members visited commented on their professionalism and knowledge of the bills being discussed. The union and District 1 both have a strong presence in Albany that helps advance the legislative agenda.

"We thank those members who used their own time to make the trip to Albany and partake in such an important event," Brown said. "It's through these united efforts that we are able to be successful." ■